## Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the abstract on p. 39 with the following amended abstract:

A dependability measurement system for use in a communications network ~~for providing dependability parameters and dependability metrics is provided~~ described. ~~The dependability measurement system is comprised of~~ includes several functional components which work together to measure, analyze and report the dependability parameters and metrics. A performance measurement function measures performance parameters between a first location and a second location in ~~a~~ the communications network. A service-affecting event computation function analyzes performance parameters measured by the performance measurement function. An equipment event measurement function monitors network elements of the communications network for ~~the~~ occurrence of network element events. A population calculator determines components within the communications network which are related to the dependability metrics to be reported upon and calculates in-service time information for the components. Finally, a dependability metric calculator calculates, analyzes and reports ~~the~~ user requested dependability parameters and metrics using information output from the service-affecting event computation function, equipment event measurement function and population calculator.